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3

一度

です

異世界転生

は

Isekai Shoukan wa Nidome Desu

– A Second Time for an Otherworld Summoning –

- Volume 3 - Compilations of War

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[Scarletmadness]

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3

異世界から 一度目の 召喚は



モンスター文庫



センのリンベル
神代冬真

勇者セツ
須崎雪

冬真の部下
メルアー

センの幼なじみ
花桂夕陽

勇者セツの親衛隊、
ただいま参上しました！

氷上の魔剣士
エルカ・ヴェルソー

剣豪
グレイン・
アルモニー

魔導博士
ティア・アムレート





地神
ガイア



海神
リウアイア



天神(魔王)
デザストル
セレーノ

さよならね……
私の妹



Chapter 51

They start to move

The war of humanity and the allied forces suddenly intensified.

The situation where the allied forces attacked and the human army defended crumbled instantly; as if they were saving up so much power, the humans advanced to the demon continent in one breath.

The result: the warp device for sending in soldiers, <Gate> was installed and in the twinkling of an eye and the demon army turned to defense.

With the situation where the beastmen could not participate, their function as allied forces were roughly ceased and the demons were starting to be pushed little by little towards their capital city Evil Barrow.

It is due to lack of fighting power... due to having no fighting power who could oppose the group of black robes who are lead by the former Hero Touma accompanying the human side.

However this time, the fighting power who could oppose the human's military strength was arriving at the demon continent.

Alize Ifrille had been wandering about on the battlefield with a group of magic soldiers.

Whenever she discovers demons she would slaughter them without argument and she walks with that body dyed in spurts of blood.

However, such girl too was surrounded by soldiers this time, trying to greet the time of reckoning.

"Alright! You're mine!"

While the arriving soldiers becomes the rust on Alize's rapier, one soldier who evaded that cut her arm off from the elbow.

When losing one's arm, one would have their balance destroyed.

It is much better than having her arm taken including her shoulders, but Alize was certainly unsteady.

"Go! Attack now!"

"This is the end for this traitorous demon! Drop dead!"

The soldiers cut towards Alize with a furious expression.

Besides her were dozens of demons in the battlefield who were considered traitors.

They were cut down at an early stage and what was left was only Alize Ifrille.

However, that last one was strong, too strong.

It may have been a short time, but she was that Setsu's pupil after all---

"The, the puppet soldiers are going that way!"

The instant the soldiers' swords was about to capture Alize, they were mowed down by a large arm along with their swords.

One damaged magic soldier stood in the way in order to protect her.

"Ra... me... I"

"Hey! What are the lots restraining the puppet soldiers doing!?"

"Not good! They're completely destroyed! Those guys are coming!"

The troops who were suppressing the surrounding magic soldiers in order to take down Alize were destroyed.

Weapons amounting to fifty bodies came surging with the force of surging waves.

Due to the overwhelming power where three soldiers could not even compete with one of them, the formation reversed immediately.

“Rame... I”

“GI... GIGI...”

The magic soldier called Ramel by Alize carried up the injured girl and took refuge in the back in order to slip into the other magic soldiers.

The demon soldiers who were about to chase after them fluttered about in the air by the arms of the front row magic soldiers.

“Damn it! With this number...”

The colors of despair floated on the soldiers who not only could not take down the traitor who became a threat, but also fell into a crisis in an instant.

The demon soldiers in this location counted 50 and the number of magic soldiers were also close to 50.

The fact the magic soldiers whose military strength is thrice that of a soldier are the same number means essentially that it's a difference of 50 against 150.

In this situation that would stand for a so-called checkmate.

“At the very least... We sacrifice ourselves and hurt them...”

However, the demon soldiers changed.

Their determination to offer those lives of theirs to the demon king was by no means weak.

Burning with fighting spirit, the soldiers held their sword and charged at the magic soldiers while raising a warcry.

Between such soldiers, a gust of wind was set out with the speed impossible to see.

“---<Freeze>”

The demon soldiers doubted their eyes.

The magic soldiers which were that much of a threat did not move even a twitch.

No... they could not move.

Their bodies were wrapped in a lump of ice and even their strong arm which mowed down many soldiers stopped, unable to do anything.

The demon soldiers who were prepared to die unintentionally dropped their sword by the spectacle in front of their eyes.

“...I’m a little anxious putting them down in ice. Glain, I’ll leave the rest to you please.”

The woman who stood between the soldiers and the magic soldiers that are put down in ice, called out to the blonde man in the back.

“Elka’s way of handling people is also rough...”

<Flying blade>---

The blonde man released <Flying blade>, a technique to fire a slashing attack, from an Iai stance.

The slashing attack which was supposed to be swung lightly, instantly bisected the 50 nearby ice statues and broke them.

“Both of you are breaking them too quick. You couldn’t secure even one.”

“Oh my, I’m sorry Tia.”

“I want to capture several bodies for research, so cooperate with me, okay?”

“Y-... you all are...”

The man and woman who instantly killed the magic soldiers.

And then the young girl who tied the magic soldiers with magic chains and mounting

their shoulder.

The soldiers recognized them.

“---Hero Setsu’s elite guards, Elka Versoe, Glain Armony and Tia Amarette, have come now in order to assist the demon king Desastre.”

勇者セツの親衛隊、
ただいま参上しました！

氷上の魔剣士
エルカ・ヴェルソー

剣豪
グレイン・
アルモニー

魔導博士
ティア・アムレート



Elka, the woman whose blue hair shook, showed a very reassuring smile towards the soldiers.

“Jirou! What happened!?”

“Move! I am treating him!”

“Sawada...!”

What was carried into the stronghold the Heroes were taking a rest at was Jirou’s body which was bearing a full body burn.

Kouma and Mitsuki rushed over at full speed, but the girl whose forte was restoration magic dropped to her knees in order to remove them.

“Oh sacred light, heal the resenting impurities! <High Heal>!”

A warm light poured out from her hand, the hand of the girl called Sawada, and it wrapped up Jirou’s body.

Jirou who could not let out a single voice had finally started to speak feebly by the <High Heal>.

“Uh... Ah...”

“Are you okay Jirou!? Sawada!”

“I know!”

Another <High Heal>.

With several Heals piled up afterwards, Jirou’s burns disappeared and he finally had come to regain consciousness.

“Ugh... This place is...?”

“It’s the stronghold! Jirou!”

“The stronghold...?”

“What in the world happened to you... Jirou.”

Jirou raised his body and viewed his surroundings, confirming his situation.

His half-awake consciousness gradually began to recover and around the time it cleared up he remembered what happened to his body.

No---he unintentionally remembered.

“I... went after Yuu and... an enemy demon was together with her so... I thought about hel---

“Yuu did...? What did you say Yuu has done?”

“Tha-, that’s right... Yuu has... Yuu has! Yuu has betrayed us!”

Jirou’s voice resounded in the stronghold.

The surroundings were baffled by his flustered state which was different from his usual.

“What are you saying Jirou... Are you still not completely conscious?”

“I was burned by her! Yuu went together with the demon bastard!”

“Would you cut it---

Kouma reflexively grabbed Jirou by the collar.

He stretched the burned tattered clothes and and glared at those eyes of his.

And he unintentionally made him shorten his words.

“She has betrayed! Us!”

There were no lies showing in his eyes.

There were no traces of him being manipulated by anything. He was flustered, but that did not mean that his head had gone strange.

Kouma didn't know, but Jirou's eyes seemed to show that he was betrayed by someone he trusted.

He became unable to say anything, so the classmates at that place were making noise.

The popular girl called Yuuhi who talks to anyone in class without any discrimination, has a bright smile and a kind personality. It was impossible for them to believe that she would do something like betraying them.

However... Jirou didn't seem to be lying, even in their eyes.

"Is it really true... that Yuu betrayed us?"

"Yeah! That's why I was attacked!"

"How about the likelihood that she was manipulated by a nearby demon?"

"That's!... I, I don't know."

Kouma questioned Jirou in order to remonstrate him.

He too began to feel doubt and anxiety, but that is because it was not **definite**.

If Yuuhi was manipulated or threatened---

"...Let's go find out. We will find Yuu and ask her. Depending on the situation we may have to defeat her and preach, but... if she is being manipulated---then we'll definitely save her."

Mitsuki stood up holding her weapon similarly to Kouma who also stood up and took his sword.

As if getting hooked by that, the classmates also stood up one after another.

Everyone wanted Yuuhi to come back.

"Where did Yuu go?"

“...I’ll also go. I can lead the way and I also want to make sure.”

“...Got it. But you’re recovering, please don’t do anything unreasonable.”

Though staggering a little, Jirou also stood up and put on a new raincoat for battlefield use.

“Judging from the direction they were heading, we will probably catch up with them quickly if we cut across the battlefield.”

“In that case I’ll cut open the path with my sacred sword. Everyone, let’s gather up and go for a one point breakthrough!”

After rushing out of the stronghold, they started hurrying with Kouma and Jirou in the lead.

Ignoring the resting voices of the soldiers who have defended the stronghold, they vanished in the direction of the battlefield.

Not knowing that it had the worst possible future from then on---

Chapter 52

Intensifying war

“Hm?”

Brad who was advancing in order to avoid the battlefield stopped walking.

Yuuhi who was walking behind him also stopped by that.

“This magic power... an extremely reliable group seems to have come for us.”

“Ah, it’s miss Elka and the others.”

On the other end of their gazes, Elka and her group had been fighting in that direction, though they were too far and hadn’t yet entered their field of vision.

Brad who did not consider that Yuuhi knew them was surprised to being responded to the contents he tended to mutter in soliloquy.

“You are acquaintances to Elka Versoe and her group?”

“Yup, the one who trained me was miss Elka after all.”

Hearing that, Brad understood Yuuhi’s behavior.

Elka, Glain and Tia were the gang of three who once visited the demon continent together with Setsu.

Never mind the five demon generals at the time, even the demon king Desastre was surprised to the extraordinary fighting power of the three humans.

(It was strength I could understand considering the fact they’ve been spending time together with that monster (Setsu) , but... if this woman is raised by such group then I can comprehend her attitude and strength I suppose.)

“? What’s wrong?”

“No, it’s noth---gh!”

“What? You’ve been sinking into silence and making a grim since a while ago...”

Even while being looked at with a quizzical look, Brad was unable to restore his stiffened expression.

“Yo- you! Can you not see this hideous magic power!?”

“...?”

“It’s in the direction of Elka’s group!”

Yuuhi guessed it wasn’t a trivial matter, seeing him disturbed who she had a cool impression of and she concentrated her sense towards said direction.

“...Not good, my sensing ability is too lacking so I don’t get it.”

“Someone possessing hideous magic power is heading towards them!”

From the start, Yuuhi had specialized training in fighting power and thus she was taught the minimum detection skills.

The minimum means the degree to not get suddenly stabbed in a dungeon or a free for all fight, it’s not a high level skill where they could grasp the location of a being separated from her by several kilometers.

And conversely if one were to ask why Brad knew, then it is because the horn grown on his head is executing its role of a high performance magic power sensor.

The reason he is in the position of the five demon generals is because of his magic power, martial arts, search ability and his diverse support skills rather than his combat skills.

“Hideous magic power?”

“It gives off this impression as if the magic powers of several races are mixed together... if I have to give an example, it's close to a chimaera created from parts of every animal.”

“Chimaera...”

It's a name close to irrelevant to Yuuhi who didn't really have much to do with amusements called manga or anime during the time she had been living in Japan.

She thought she had seen such name once when she borrowed a fantasy novel in Setsu's room, but she didn't remember the details.

“It's suspicious... I can't let them do as they please.”

“If it's miss Elka's group then isn't it fine?”

“I'm not worried about them, but... If I don't ascertain it, then it may put lady Desastre in danger.”

“Eh!? You're actually going!?”

Yuuhi stopped Brad in a panic who unexpectedly walked towards that direction.

She ought to have been thinking about currying favors to the demon army in order to not become enemies with Setsu, but if she were to be left behind by him then she would end up in a situation where both armies would turn into her enemies.

In order to prevent that from happening, it was necessary for her to have Brad lead her to the demon headquarters.

“I didn't say I will leave you behind did I? However I somehow feel ill at ease taking you, who still hasn't established any of our trust, with me to fight.”

“...you still don't trust me do you?”

“These so-called humans are quite the crafters after all. Your actions until now could likely be part of your tactics to destroy all of the demons from the inside.”

“...”

“I frankly don't want a joint struggle. If you want some level of trust from me, then...”

right, there is a little something I'd like you to do for me."

"Hm?"

Brad turned around and pointed towards the direction they were coming from right now.

As usual Yuuhi's detection ability wasn't high, so she didn't know anything just by being shown that direction.

"It appears they are your former comrades you see? You have brought along an extremely troublesome group of people with you."

"...Ugh geez... They've already found Jirou-kun"

Her expectations that they will be a little later in discovering her because the place she left was quite separated from the stronghold was entirely overturned.

"They are quite far away, but unlike us who are proceeding discreetly in order to not get unnecessarily inquired about, the group seems to be directly cutting through the battlefield. They will immediately catch up with us, you see?"

"...I get it, so you're telling me to confine them, right?"

"No, not confine. Render them unable to fight."

"..."

"I am not telling you to kill them. Either way it appears you didn't kill the man a while ago either; even you have compassion have you not?"

It's fine not to kill them---is what she was told, but his nuance told her to knock them about until they're **half killed**.

She should have resistance in killing her former companions as one would have expected, so Yuuhi would refuse if she, for argument's sake, was told to kill them.

Even if he won't end up trusting her, then she will think about a different way at that time.

Her mind was not a scene of carnage yet.

The chains called compassion was restricting Yuuhi.

While she depended on it, she thought adversely to that at the same time.

(I'm embarrassing myself feeling hesitant to this... I won't be able to catch up to Yuki-kun like this)

Yuuhi felt angry towards herself.

Towards herself who could not reach the **target** Elka presented, not even a single step.

Towards herself who felt hesitation.

“---Okay. I'll do it.”

“...I see. I'll call the soldiers here on the way. Allow me to hear your way of fighting from them.”

“...”

“I am counting on you.”

Brad turned his back towards Yuuhi and started running.

Already her gaze were pointed towards her past comrades, the chains of her heart.

“Okay then---I'll go and lightly burn 'em.”

Yuuhi lightly muttered so, but those eyes of hers were very serious and for some reason housed Setsu's face.

The war intensified and sooner or later even this place should be wrapped up in violent flames of war.

The war was finally approaching the final scene.

“Haa... haa... damn it!”

“Huh? Is that all?”

“Quite dissatisfying. Being a let down is also his strong point with this.”

That man, Kagerou was on his knees breathing roughly.

There were no large injuries on his body, but there were countless tiny wounds and in contrast with that, the two of the five great demon generals did not make even a single rough breathing.

“How could... not a clone, but the real me be overwhelmed...!? You bastards never had this kind of strength before!”

“You know that’s... because even we weren’t real at that time, you see.”

Upon saying so, Ides and Lily showed a fist and a staff respectively.

On the gloves put on Ides’s fists, a complex magic circle rose on the surface and on Lily’s staff was inserted a magic power reinforcement magic stone which was strong because of its simplicity.

“I see... so those are the weapons of you bastards then.”

“That time was also the wedding ceremony and so we didn’t have it with us so you wouldn’t get wary of us.”

“It’s been a while since I had gone all out, my <Me Ricansack> is also overjoyed.”

The demon king Desastre personally created and granted them, the five great demon generals, weapons specialized to make the most each of their special abilities.

For Brad a red knife, <Blood Clot Knife>.

For Lily a white staff, <Staff of White Conjunction>.

For Ides a glove incorporated with protrusions and magic circles, <Me Ricansack>.

(メーリケンサック; me rikensakku: according to wikipedia, merikensakku is a different

word for a brass knuckle or knuckleduster, they either wanted to go with american sack or 'Murican sack)

Each and every one of them were national treasure class articles and one which ingredients Desastre personally had gone and gathered.

Those who wear this and fight were literally on a different rank compared to their barehanded counterpart.

“Now then, we too do not have the free time, it’s about time we settle this.”

“Ugh!”

Ides unleashed his fists aimed at Kagerou.

An invisible shock ran through the air as if befitting the expression of “rupturing the atmosphere”.

Kagerou jumped.

And at the same time, Lily released magic from her staff.

“<Flame Lance – Gatling>!”

Countless magic circles manifested instantly and from those even more <Flame Lance> was released in turbulent force.

<Flame Lance> is not a weak magic.

In addition to that, <Gatling> was originally an application magic that is appended to basic magic like <Fireball>.

Her magic which is the combination of those two was something even the king would be amazed at.

“Damn! <Shadow Wall>!”

Kagerou who just dodged Ides’ attack, gave up on dodging the lances and grew a pitch black wall from his own shadow.

Appearing to be a rather strong wall, the struck <Flame Lance> immediately dispersed.

However to his regret... it was a large quantity.

“Take this and this! There’s more of where that came from!”

So the tyranny of numbers is this.

The rain of lances struck the wall without an end.

And as for the wall, its surface was gradually shaved off and before long it opened a hole.

“Tch!”

Finally one flame lance penetrated the wall.

Seeing the lance stop in front of his eyes and sensing the collapse of his wall, Kagerou ran off towards the back.

Somehow finishing the exchange of magic, he thought about getting out of her range.

However---

“Turning your back away and running off... If you’re a man then meet your enemy directly!”

“W-!?”

Ides who went around and cut him in, thrust his fist towards Kagerou.

Although he instantly twisted his body and avoided a direct hit, his body was easily blown away just from being touched a little.

“Welcoome”

“Oh shi---

Being blown off, Kagerou once again entered the range of the flame lances.

Due to the damage from getting hit and his posture being broken, he could not get out of the way.

The <Flame Lance> made a direct hit and a thunderous roar resounded.

Lily grasped a positive response.

“Gah... haa... haa... I see... to think they have gone this far.”

Kagerou put both of his arms on the ground and looked down on his body full of burns.

The damage was great and intense pain ate into his body.

“Now then... You must hate suffering any more than this. We will end this soon.”

“Haa... haa... You’re right. I have to... end this soon.”

The damage on him was great, even standing up was difficult---however, there was still confidence in victory in his eyes.

The two reflexively stood ready to that expression of his.

They who were convinced in their victory altered their thinking and turned vigilant to the max against Kagerou.

“What are you saying? Are you giving up?”

“Yeah... I give up. Killing you bastards like this that is... Honestly I didn’t think I would have this hard fight so far, but... that I would have to use this.”

Said Kagerou and he pulled out the sword on his back.

And then Ides and Lily became surprised.

The were supposed to have the advantage.

Despite that... Seeing that jet-black sword blade, their instinct feared it

“---<Limit Break>”

This moment, the visions of victory within them crumbled completely.

Chapter 53

Monster Tamer Melua

“Uwaa... How awful. Breaking the dolls I took the trouble to make into pieces.”

Elka and co who defeated the horde of magic soldiers, pointed their swords at the person in black robe coming out riding on the shoulders of a differently colored magic soldier.

That, whose presence was like many different kinds of magic power being mixed together, looked at the wreckages of arms scattered about nearby and let out a insincere like voice.

“Nearly all of the manipulated demons are also defeated, so I have to replenish them again you know.”

“I do not know your circumstances, but... if you are the very person who have created these weapons then I have something I would like to ask in anticipation.”

“Hm? Like what?”

“**What happened** to that female demon?”

Said Elka as she pointed at the being near that.

A demon woman who had lost an arm and had her once lovely red hair stained with mud.

The three knew her.

They moved together for a short while and they had taken care of her in many things, so they could not forget her.

“**This?** This is, you know, what I discovered at the time I was hiding in some demon village. She was strong so I wanted her and kind of made her into my little doll.”

She said while taking off her hood, and upon doing so her still childish and innocent human girl's face was revealed.

Dense bloodlust of the three assaulted such innocent girl.

That bloodlust was so dense and frightening, the demon soldiers behind them reflexively fell on their backs.

"Aha! Don't make a scary face so much, okay! Hm? Could it be that you were acquaintances with this girl? With this Alize Ifrille-chan."

"...She was a friend you see."

"That's how it is! I'm so~rry! But you know in that case then, if you become my puppets... you can become her friends again you know?"

"Wh!"

The black robe girl stretched out her hand.

Upon doing so, the vacant eyed Alize started moving.

She readied her rapier in her one armed state and ran on the muddy ground.

Running through without getting stuck in the mud, she jumped and thrust a hit towards Glain with her weight put on it.

"Such thrust won't get through me."

He caught that with the hand wearing a silver gauntlet.

He then threw Alize whose movement was stopped in mid air towards the girl.

"Waaoh... Even though this girl is quite strong even among my puppets... As one would expect from the people who possesses strength close to a king while having a human body."

Alize who was treated gently and thrown away adjusted her body in mid-air and landed next to the girl.

And then, at the moment she was about to run off again, the girl commanded her with her hand.

“Stop there, Alize-chan. Facing them recklessly would kill you, you know.”

In accordance to her words, Alize stood still with her rapier set up.

The girl nodded in satisfaction and pulled out a knife from her pocket.

“If one is not good then two and if even that is not good then steamroll them with numbers I’d say!”

With that knife the girl, without any hesitation, cut her own wrist.

“W-!? Are you planning on committing suicide?”

Elka’s group were surprised, but the girl stared at the gushing blood dropping on the floor with a grin.

The blood extended because of the muddy ground and falling rain and before long it created a reddish brown ground far and wide.

“The rainy day spreads the blood for me so it saves me the trouble. It **didn’t really take much** to be completed.”

When the girl placed her hand on the wound, that wound vanished without a trace, as if the blood gushing out until then had all been an illusion.

Seeing that, Tia noticed.

“...What gushed out on the ground right now wasn’t blood... it’s **magic power**.”

“Coorrect! This knife is a little special you know, it lets magic power gush out from the part it cuts. Well just like blood vessels, the volume that comes out seems to change

depending on the place of your body though.”

The blood---or rather magic power that was spread on the ground gradually faded into black and before long it was dyed pitch black.

From that which was dense and deepened enough to be sucked in, numerous sinister magic power could be felt.

Numerous---presences of enormous monsters that is.

“This, is bad”

“It’s too late!”

Tia noticed the threat of this first, but it was already late.

The girl **called out** to the ground.

“Come out, come out! Everyone!”

The ground shook.

While hearing the flustered voices of the demon soldiers behind her, Elka instantly released a <Flying blade> towards the girl.

She understood the threat of this from Tia’s words.

Its strength was not at the level of Glain’s, but an extremely well placed slash was approaching the girl.

“This arm...”

Glain dropped down a little and lined up with Elka.

An enormous arm gradually exposed its full picture and revealed its hideous looking figure.

What appeared from the black soil was a red gorilla that appeared to be 15 meters tall.

And then... there were several monsters beside it.

“The S rank monster Death Kong, the similarly ranked Death Snake, Death Lizard and in addition to those an SS rank flying dragon... and it's a fire dragon type to boot. It's amazing that I would collect all three of the <Death> Series, right?”

What crawled out of the ground were nothing but enormous and dangerous monsters.

The flying dragon in particular is even stronger than the dragon Setsu took down in Alize's village before.

“You know, I was acting like a monster tamer and at one point I had become a little famous as <Monster Tamer Melua>, but... You don't know? I guess you don't know.”

“...<Monster Tamer Melua>... An SS rank criminal who sold atrocious monsters in the black market for a bargain and held shows of human slaves being brutally killed by monsters.”

“Huuh? You do know me!”

“I have gone to the black market in order to study magic, so I have seen you several times. Enough to finally recall after seeing that black ground. If I'm not mistaken, that is <Monster Hotel>”

“That's correct! I keep the monsters I have caught and tamed in my body. Though I say that, it feels more like I created a different dimension inside my body and isolated them there.”

Plenty of such people exists.

For instance concealing weapons inside one's body so one can assassinate their foe, it can also be said to be an indispensable skills for when caught as a spy.

To be accurate it is another dimension produced with magic rather than inside the body, or in other words a type of <Space Magic>. But if there is someone sensitive to presences, then they would somehow perceive the presence of weapons inside the opponent's body so they would be easily seen through.

No struggle would be able to separate that presence from the inside of the body, at this

moment it can be thought of as a type of defective magic.

The method to connect to another dimension is where you have to expressly create a <hole> with blood or magic, which is also a reason it is called defective.

Incidentally, the reason why Melua wasn't suspected by Setsu at the time she was close to him was because she left the monsters inside her other dimension in a different location.

"I see... That was the cause of the mixed uncanny presences, isn't it?"

Muttered Elka, as she looked at the monsters, each raising a war cry filled with power.

The soldiers withdrawn to the back were completely terrified by the monsters whose precise strength was revealed in ranks.

There were no intentions on making them fight from the start, but seeing the state of the soldiers who couldn't even run away, Glain calmly breathed a sigh.

Even Glain and his group could stand against groups of S rank and higher while protecting a large number of people.

"Tia! Guard the soldiers in the back! The ones in front of us are for me and Elka!"

"Eeh... I also want to go forward."

"I'll even treat you a cake, so please!"

"I shall obey."

"Tia, you're a rear guard in the first place aren't you..."

Tia who voiced her dissatisfaction in not being able to fight in the frontlines became submissive through confectioneries and so Glain and Elka started running towards the monsters.

"There is no later for you guys! Go!"

[GOAAaaaah!]

The two went at the enormous rushing monsters without flinching.

Tia jumped off from the bound magic soldier she was on and took up a natural stance to block the way in front of the soldiers.

“Glain, the Death Kong in front of you if you please! I’ll go for the Death Snake!”

“Understood!”

When they confirmed each of their preys, Elka kicked the ground and revolved over the Death Snake.

“Get sewed on the ground! <Icicle Drop>!”

Above the trajectory of her fluttering about in mid air appeared a magic circle with the diameter size that carefully matched her.

When the gorgeously dancing Elka landed behind the snake and thrust her sword to the ground, gigantic blocks of ice revealed its figure from the magic circle.

The tips of the blocks of ice were pointed sharply and the vigorously protruding tips pierced the Death Snake, sewing it to the ground in an instant.

[Kishaaaah!?!]

Having numerous large holes opened on its body, the Death Snake raised its voice and writhed.

When Elka slightly twisted the thrust sword, the lumps of ice also moved the same way, tormenting the snake even more.

Several seconds later, the Death Snake easily died.

“Don’t think S rank level monsters... can stop us.”

Pulling the sword from the ground, she thrust it towards Melua who was looking at

her in surprise.

“<Flying Blade>!”

[Aaaah!]

The <Flying Blade> released by Glain put in a cut on Death Kong’s body.

“As expected of a Death Kong, so this level doesn’t work.”

[AAah!]

“Woah”

The enraged Death Kong swung his strong arm.

Glain dodged it and released a <Flying blade> when he had the opportunity... However, its skin was as tough as he expected and he could not inflict a fatal wound with a lightly released <Flying Blade>

“This is not the time to hold back I suppose...”

While dodging the arm that was swung recklessly in rage, Glain clad his sword with magic power and put strength in his arm.

“<Flying Blade–Cutting Petals>!”

Glain swung his sword just once---is what it looked like.

The next moment, **countless** sword cuts ran through Death Kong’s body and made a red flower bloom in the air.

Seemingly already died, the Death Kong lied on the ground face down without raising even a single shriek.

“My sword is called a <Light sword> you see... you couldn’t see it could you?”

Sheathing his sword, Glain muttered while looking at the fallen Death Kong.



Chapter 54

Marionette Magic

“Both of you, you defeated them too quickly”

“Lady Tia...”

“Everyone, step further back, you will get dragged into it.”

“Kuh... yes, ma’am.”

The death lizard who had begun charging some time ago was pinned down by a protection magic circle created with just one of Tia’s hands.

Above her was also the flying dragon, amassing enormous magic power within its mouth. A sign of Breath.

With her current situation where she is protecting the other soldiers, she didn’t have the courage to catch that as expected and so she made the soldiers fall back.

The soldiers who could not do anything showed regret in their expressions.

[Grrr...]

It appeared that the flying dragon in the sky had gathered its Breath.

Its head curved back greatly, it set itself up to spit it out.

“I don’t want to be covered with whatever will be vomited out of your mouth...---
Power of rejection, become a wall to bend the current, stop the flow and repel all---
<Reflect>”

[Gaaaaaah!]

At the same time its Breath was released, a protection magic circle was unfolded by

Tia's high speed chanting.

These magic called protection magic are roughly equal of importance to body reinforcement magic in this world.

It also has the meaning of performance, but it also has the significance because it influences the other's way of life.

Basically, people study attribute magic first, then afterwards select either reinforcement magic or protection magic.

People who have chosen reinforcement magic generally take the road of magic swordsman who makes use of their body.

Elka is an example of that.

Conversely, the people who choose protection magic generally takes the road of a complete long range type of mage who ceaselessly throw magic on the spot.

Without any sort of body reinforcement, they would produce walls with magic circles and defend against opponent's attacks.

Tia is no doubt this type of person.

Rarely moving herself, she would burn, beat and stab their foes on the spot.

She would defend against an attack from their opponent and shoot once again.

That is Tia's fighting style.

Incidentally, because Glain did not really have any aptitude towards magic, he was a through and through swordsman who had only learned body reinforcement magic due to his control in magic power.

Never could he show anything like ice, he could not even deploy a magic circle.

"I'm returning it, all of it."

The flying dragon's flame ball that hit <Reflect> splendidly rebounded together with a high-pitched noise and directly hit the dragon.

Being a fire dragon type, it would never receive flame damage, however it appeared to be no more than a little surprised.

“...I have grasped the strength of all of you. It’s about time I end this as well.”

Looking at the Death Lizard who still could not approach without ramming the magic circle and the flying dragon who once again began gathering its breath, Tia softly sighs and began her chant.

That is with her mouth and with a **single empty hand**.

“Thunderous heaven, deeply overlapping thunder clouds, like the wrath of god who trembles all, attend to the one who will be pierced to extinction by thy unchanging, ruthless eyes---”

[A flash of wind, a flash enough breath to cut bodies, an invisible flash, a sonic flash, life severing blade consolidated to that flash, my wish is but one, cut my adversary--]

Tia’s mouth spun words and her one hand lit with a magic light filled out a magic circle in the air.

Written Aria---A high class technique high ranking mages utilizes at times when one could not speak the words. As a result of filling out a magic circle in the air instead of speaking it out, its speed until invocation is naturally overwhelmingly low.

In Tia’s case however, she would still have time left even if she slows down her chant and let it complete together with the movement of her hand.

In this world there doesn’t exist any beings who surpasses her chanting speed, be it that Setsu or Touma.

“---<Zeus’ Judgment>”

[---<Aiolos’ Wind>]

Thereafter was without a doubt an instant.

Lightning came down from the thunderclouds that appeared suddenly, piercing through the flying dragon.

An unseen blade of wind released from the magic circle bisected the Death Lizard.

These events happened in mere moments---

The monsters which were considered to be calamities in this world fell by the hands of a single girl.

“Parallel chanting...”

Muttered one of the soldiers.

Parallel chanting is as the name implies, a technique to chant separate magic simultaneously with mouth and hand.

It is an impossible skill if one is incapable of written aria in the first place, usable only by a handful of people.

Setsu naturally could not use it either, but Tia goes even further, being a master of three line parallel chanting.

This time, she completed two SS rank magic while maintaining protection magic, though it was not chanting it.

It was a skill that allowed her to attain top class power in controlling magic as well as it capitalized on her magic eye that can see magic power.

“And I’m done”

With a concluding face, Tia dusted off her hands with claps.

“Wha-... My toys are... a- annihilated?”

“You know by looking don’t you?”

“Elka, it’s not good if you don’t let her at least escape reality.”

“That was rude of me.”

Already... were the only ones protecting Melua the magic soldier she was sitting on,

Alize Ifrille and another magic soldier standing beside Alize.

There were still monsters inside her, but even S rank were no match for them, so summoning any more than this had no meaning.

If she had a monster that strong, then she would have let it fight a long time ago.

“What are you all... Are you really human?”

“Indeed we are. Ordinary humans who could be together with the monstrous person we long for.”

“I don’t get it... What? Are you saying you’ve become that strong through your own effort...? Are you saying you worked hard and became like that...? Even without **remodelling or drugs...**?”

“...?”

“I don’t get it... I don’t get it at all!”

Shouted Melua. She cut her wrist and once again created a black hole with blood.

The monsters that crawled out rushed on Elka’s group in unison.

However---

“It’s useless.”

In the order they approached them, they became encased in ice, cut down and torn and sliced by the wind.

“G- Go!”

Melua jumped off the magic soldier and brought out an order to attack them.

At that time the monsters were already annihilated and only corpses rolled on the ground.

“A vain struggle is it...”

Glain’s sword ran and with a single sweep he made short work of the magic soldier.

The weapon which was bisected from its shoulder without being able to do anything became unable to move anymore on top of the monster corpses.

“This isn’t supposed to... I still...”

“I don’t know your circumstances, but... I will have you defeated here.”

Glain closed his distance to Melua and swung down his sword.

Just before his sword cut her in two, Alize thrustured herself in between them.

“Alize-!”

Unintentionally, Glain stopped his sword.

He received a flashback on the days he spent with her and Setsu and hesitated.

“Kuh... Back off!”

Pulling back his sword, Glain drove a kick into her.

However, the decisive time has already been given to his opponent.

The last magic soldier who furthermore had thrustured itself before Alize had received the kick with its body as if covering for her.

The armor transmitted the feeling of dense flesh to him.

“I knew it... its inside was a person...”

The feeling at the time Glain cut a magic soldier wasn’t that of cutting an inorganic substance, but no doubt that of cutting a person.

He couldn't hold that confidence---no, he didn't wanted to hold that confidence, but this made him change.

And so, the truth rose even more with the fact he made skin contact and experienced the feeling of flesh.

These must be the bodies of demons... likely being made to fight for the human side like Alize and were imprisoned inside such dolls.

The magic soldiers he had seen until now had identical sizes, but Glain predicted ordinary demons were inside and perhaps there may be children in there.

Anger welled up.

However, those thinking time was fatal.

"Glain!"

"Gh!"

Alize readied her rapier.

Glain recalled her rapier was quite polished.

He noticed Elka's voice, but his defense won't reach in time.

"Yes!"

Melua raised her voice.

She unintentionally clutched her fist, that was how perfect the timing of Alize's thrust was.

His chest was pierced by the rapier---the moment that was thought, Glain's body fell on the ground.

"Elka!"

"Please don't get careless!... gh"

Elka thrust away Glain by a hair's breadth and defended against the piercing sword. Instead the rapier's point grazed her shoulder, flesh was gouged out and blood came out.

"Forgive me! How about your wound!?"

"It's just a scratch, so I'm fine. More importantly..."

"Aha-... Ahahahahahahahahaha! Ahahahahahaha!"

Melua was laughing.

A laugh that was like it was letting one feel fear, like she went mad.

Alize who missed the decisive moment and the magic soldier who could not move except for twitching---Even though it should have been hopeless no matter how one thinks, she didn't stop laughing.

Laughing, as if she was **convinced of her victory**.

"Is there anything strange?"

"Aah, I laughed and laughed... Nono, I think I even saw a chance of victory with this. If I could wish for it, I would have wanted to put it a little more deeper though..."

"What in the world are you---"

"<Marionette Magic>---<Puppet Play>!"

"W-!? Unique magic!?"

Glain immediately put himself on guard.

It is because he noticed the magic Melua had used was a unique magic.

Unique magic are valuable magic in this world that isn't possessed by anyone but one person, and there are terribly powerful ones as well.

For that reason he was being cautious, but nothing happened with Melua pushing out

one of her hands.

Then, is it a bluff... Glain thought and he ended up feeling let down.

To put in other words---he lost focus.

“Glain! Beside you!”

“Gh!?”

Tia who was behind him called out.

The next moment, Glain’s armor was crushed and a single cut entered that body of his.

And then bright red blood gushed out...

Without knowing what happened, Glain saw **Elka** swinging her sword at him.

“Now! It’s time for the end of the play!”

Together with Melua’s voice, Elka once again held her sword overhead---



---and swung down on Glain who was on his knees.

Chapter 55

Yuuhi dog

Around the time Elka's group started their battle, at another place---

"---Yuu"

"You've finally arrived here, everyone."

The place Yuuhi was in which seemed to be a somewhat cleared plaza, finally Kouma's group and classmates have arrived there.

The field of vision was poor by the rain, but they mutually took off the hood of the raincoat and confirmed their faces.

"Why... are you on **that side**?"

"It's simple, you know Kouma-kun. I am siding with the demons."

"Why...? Why are you siding with them! Yuu!"

Shouted Jirou, unable to bear it.

He wished that it was a lie, he wished that she was brainwashed.

However her gaze was straight as an arrow.

Her strong eyes filled with definitive conviction let them understand whether it was true or false that she was sane.

That was hopelessly---sad.

"Yuu... You got a reason for this don't you? Talk to us... You've always gotten along with us... with the four of us and the class, didn't you..."

"Reason? Ah, that would be..."

Yuuhi once again thought about the reason for her to be hostile towards them.

However she thought and thought, but all what appeared was Setsu's face.

If he sides with the demons, then she would also go to the same place.

If he sides with the humans, then she would also fight together with those currently in front of her.

If he sides with the beastmen, then she would not be in this place, but in the beastmen continent.

If he doesn't side with anyone, then she would be next to him who would be walking freely.

In other words, her reason was because she wanted to be near Setsu who was her everything and everyone.

But, saying that in front of so many people is, as expected, something she was reluctant to do so.

"...Well, I'll tell you if you can win from me."



Yuuhi stopped talking any more than this and then orange flames spouted out from her whole body.

That was the combat ready Hanabashira Yuuhi nobody knew.

The raincoat she was wearing immediately dried and burned out and the special combat uniform produced for Yuuhi revealed its figure.

A short pants and clothes that were based around the color white and a chest protector attached to it; the classmates has never even once seen that appearance of hers.

With heat resistance that can withstand even her powerful flames and yet being mobile, those clothes which would not easily let an attack through would show its appearance when Yuuhi has decided the opponents she must take down.

“Do we really... have to fight?”

“If you don’t fight---you will just die, you know.”

A ball of fire appeared above Yuuhi’s head.

That which was shining in orange gradually became gigantic and before long it released a sun like presence.

In an instant the words were stolen from Kouma’s group.

“Yuu...”

“Gh! Kouma! We’re doing this!”

“Ye- yeah... Got it.”

Being hit by Yuuhi’s clear intent to kill, each of Kouma’s group reluctantly took their weapons in their hand.

Although Kouma was hesitating until the end, he perhaps hardened his resolve at the end and looked straight towards Yuuhi.

“Come---<Excalibur>”

He drew out a golden shining sword from the empty air.

It released a sacred light, seemingly wanting to say “This is a sacred sword.”

Yuuhi looked at everyone standing ready and smiled meaningfully.

“That is good---”

---I’ll also show my full strength.

She said as the last part of her voice was drowned out by a mysterious voice.

“Aaaaah! I ain’t making iiiit!”

Someone was falling from the air while shouting with a loud voice.

That person landed a little in the center between Yuuhi and Kouma.

“Ow ow... I knew I would get numb from that height.”

“...Yo-, you’re...”

Everyone here knew him.

They didn’t instantly notice it because his hair was cut and his appearance changed from the time they were in Japan, but it was certainly the man they also knew.

Being summoned, having no abilities, expelled in a few days and rumored to have died by the roadside, one of the classmates---

“---Yuki-kun!”

“Ooh, it’s Yuuhi. Long time no see.”

Suzaki Setsu, had landed on this continent.



“This is bad”

I’m currently in the clouds.

Even though I was supposed to have transferred from the beastmen continent, why am I in such a place?

And also what happened to Shironeko, Mineko and Roa?

I, who’s in the middle of a glorified fall, was thinking of nothing but those sort of things.

Apparently the cause is that the guy who invoked the transfer magic circle kind of made a mistake with the transfer coordinates.

I was in a hurry, so a certain level of mistake can’t be helped.

But how is it that I got transferred higher than the clouds?

If I fall down like this then I think I can put my feet on the continent right below, but... Is this really the demon continent?

Mmhhh... I can’t really see with the rain...

“Geh---

While I was doing all that, I already got close to the ground.

If I’m this close then I won’t be on time in casting floating magic and even if I do it’ll be a crash course to the ground without me being able to drop enough of my speed on time.

“Aaaaah! I ain’t making iiiit!”

I twist my body out of necessity and forcibly landed on my two legs.

My knees went numb, but nothing else anywhere.

But someone would have died if it wasn’t me you know...

“Owow... I knew I would get numb from that height.”

It feels strange that I would only get numb from falling down from that height even if I say so myself.

“...Yo-, you’re...”

Oops, I’m surrounded I guess.

Or actually, they’re all my classmates on a closer look.

Them being here means this is the acclaimed battlefield on the demon continent.

“---Yuki-kun!”

Which means, this girl is also naturally here.

“Ooh, it’s Yuuhi. Long time no see.”

I look over my shoulder and at that place was my always familiar childhood friend Hanabashira Yuuhi.

Because the quality of her magic power became unbelievable, I couldn’t immediately notice her.

Extremely difficult training must have been---

“Yuki-kuuuuuuuun!”

“Bufuoh!?”

Letting out a stupid voice, I staggered forward.

Yuuhi suddenly jumped at me, so I didn’t try to avoid her.

“Ye- yeah... What’s up?”

“Yuki-kun!”

“Yeah”

“Yuki-kun!”

“Ye- yeah!”

“Yuki-kun Yuki-kun Yuki-kun Yuki-kun Yuki-kun Yuki-kun Yuki-kun Yuki-kun Yuki-kun!”

“Uoh!?”

Yuuhi rubbed her face on my chest, sniffed me and ran her fingers through my body.
The itchiness and her head scraping on me is a little uncomfortable.

“Yuuhi, separate a little from---”

“I don’t wanna!”

“That’s quick!?”

Yuuhi’s frolicking didn’t stop.

Even my face was rubbed by her cheeks while she was at it, it’s about to turn into a situation we can’t shown to the public.

Uoh... don’t rustle my hair... also don’t squeeze my chest, give me a break already.

“Kuh... Yuuhi! **Stop!**”

“Okay!”

“---Eh?”

Yuuhi’s movement suddenly stopped.

Yuuhi, who didn't want to stop that much, began doing nothing and kept still at a terrifying level.

...

"...Sit"

"Okay!"

"Oops, you'll get dirty like this... Stand up"

"Okay!"

"...turn around"

"Okay!"

"Attention"

"Okay!"

"Turn right"

"Okay!"

"Another turn"

"Okay"

"Somersault"

"Okay!"

"BURN"

"Ugh... The hell is thiis!?" (*T. N. I think this was a reference to some comedy show*)

"Kazing"

"I've become healthy!"

"Your hand"

"Okay!"

"Your second one"

"Okay!"

"Say woof."

“Woof!”

“Beg”

“No way... what are you trying to make me do in front of everyone, Yuki-kun...? But if it's an order---”

“What!? What are you talking about!?”

I don't want you to react to a strange part. This was a solid performance.

Or rather why is only the part you talked back on so typical... how old are you...

Nevertheless... This is that right? A dog.

Hanabashira Yuuhi, has become a dog.

“...Elkaa...!”

I came to see that girl's face as she says [I have trained her as your faithful dog. Please feel free to use her as you see fit] with a triumphant look.

Elka isn't an M except towards me after all... It looks like she's been doing as she pleased quite a bit.

“Yuuhi, how were you trained by Elka?”

“If I'm ordered by Yuki-kun, then I would show absolute obedi---”

“Alright already, I get it.”

Elka, I shall praise you for not polishing Yuuhi into the miss pervert like you.

But Yuuhi wasn't this kind of girl.

Yuuhi was a japanese who could say no.

What are you doing, breaking that into something else...

“? What’s wrong?”

Aah... dog ears are growing on Yuuhi’s head... I can actually see a tail...

I guess she’ll be in for a punishment, that extreme woman.

Chapter 56

Come play with me

“So Yuuhi, explain the situation.”

In order to get to the main question about now, I gave Yuuhi the order.

I somehow came to enjoy giving out orders.

“Okay! Uhm, let’s see---”

Uhuh uhuh. To sum it up, when Yuuhi tried to side with the demons in order to not antagonize me, these classmates chased after her she said.

“Ah! Come to think of it, miss Elka and the others have come too.”

“Aah, they really did come for me.”

I expected no less from the three, they did what I wished for.

“It looks like they’re fighting over there right now. But an enemy who held strange magic just now went to the teacher’s group and---”

“They should be fine. They’re absolutely not losing this.”

They’re a gang of three who can fight equally against demon king Desastre and beast king Regulus. Whatever their opponents, they won’t lose.

Above all, they’ve always been fighting together with me, their win is already set in stone.

“---Oh really... Yup, if you believe in them, then I believe in them too, Yuki-kun.”

“So I---can send those guys flying right?”

“...Hey hey, you Gloomy Yuki.”

The one who pushed away the still absent minded Kouma and also Jirou and Mitsuki while he was at it and appeared with a vein popping in the head was Endou.

Looks like he's unable to stomach me like always.

“Long time no see Endou. Nothing's better than to see you well.”

“Shut up you gloomy bastard...! Get your ass away from Yuuhi-san!”

“It's not like... I'm the one getting close to her though...”

Yuuhi should be clinging on my arm, no matter how you look at it.

Wait, stop smelling me.

“...gh! Shut up! You're manipulating Yuuhi-san aren't you!? Such gentle Yuuhi-san couldn't have betrayed us! That's right Kouma! It's all that guy's fault! That must be it!”

“...Suzaki did?”

Kouma was listening to Endou's words.

I don't mind him having a wrong guess from my point of view, but from these people's point of view it would be natural for me, who suddenly appeared at a hostile situation, to look suspicious if you think about the fact I was driven out of the castle and then returned like this.

Endou's opinion is completely caught in his personal feelings though.

“But you, you've seen me being invited by Yuuhi on a date, didn't you.”

“Eh?... No way...”

“Tha, that you see! You must have manipulated her into doing that right!? To make

what I saw into a good thing! I'm sure as hell about that!"

Doesn't even have good ears... Well, I knew that though.

Well it can't be helped after hearing it, it's something I knew from the beginning.

Also Yuuhi, it ain't the time to be blushing.

"Now that you mention it... the time in Japan... Yuu was getting along well with Suzaki-kun, I thought it was strange."

"Being together with a weird guy like Suzaki, even I have a problems with it."

"...Refusing my invitation and going out with Suzaki was also because she was manipulated, wasn't it..."

Thus were Mitsuki, Jirou and Kouma's comments.

They actually mentioned our time in Japan, looks like you've been greatly talked about aren't you, me.

I also have the problem with the fact I can't deny it though.

"Right!? That guy manipulated everything! I can't think of anything but that!"

Endou shouted and the other classmates gradually began to show wariness towards me.

Seems I'm really hated, even though I haven't done a single fucking bad thing... should I have been a little more attentive to fashion?

In that case I wouldn't have been called gloomy I guess.

This is what you call being too late, I guess.

"Gloomy Yuki! Free Yuuhi-san immediately!"

"...is, what they said though?"

“---Everyone”

Yuuhi went in front of me as if protecting me.

Oh woah... she's angry.

“Be silent for a bit”

[Wh-!]

All of a sudden, orange flames gushed out of Yuuhi's body again.

A flame which swelled up large in the twinkling of an eye, rushed on towards Kouma and the others like a tidal wave.

The thickness of the flames didn't amount to much, but they were suddenly attacked from that sphere and with immediate effect.

It'll certainly eat up everyone like this, but Kouma, holding the sacred sword leaped forward even though he's drenched and gave instructions.

“Everyone, get together in one spot behind me!”

The group who could respond to that instruction carried the group who couldn't respond and promptly gathered behind Kouma.

“Cut open---<Excalibur>!”

Kouma swung his sacred sword and a slash thrust out while scattering light particles, cutting open the flame wave.

By doing so, they went right between the flames that divided in two and successfully avoided it.

That attack, though it had a showy effect, is a type of <Flying blade>.

A hacking like attack lacking any sharpness from lack of skill... This won't hold a candle to slashes like Glain's captivating ones.

“Yuu! What are you doing!?”

“Don’t talk badly about Yuki-kun any more than this---Next time I will really kill you.”

“Ugh...”

Kouma choked up his breathing.

The bloodlust Yuuhi released caused that.

I’m surprised. She who lost her nerve from my bloodlust before I departed is now releasing bloodlust herself.

It’s an unthinkable intensity and unthinkable development.

Let’s praise Elka later after all, I’ve decided to refrain from doing the unreasonably gentle **punishment** and with all my might, slap her ass.

But before that.

“Yuuhi, switch with me for a bit.”

“Eh!?”

I move Yuuhi out of the way.

I don’t really think much towards these guys.

It’s because whatever was done to me was no skin off their nose.

But now I’m just a little pissed off.

It’s the first time feeling hatred towards these guys.

These guys aren’t looking at Yuuhi.

If they’re really Yuuhi’s friends then they should’ve been able to at least understand that she hasn’t been manipulated.

They see being friends with Yuuhi and being companions with Yuuhi as nothing but a type of status.

I can't help but get pissed off at that.

And more than anything else---I can't stomach the fact Kouma asked Yuuhi out on a date.

"You all, come play with me for a bit."

I'll give them a punch.

And while I'm at it, I'll return Endou and his gang what they've done to me until now.

"You piece of...! Are you telling us that just because you have that big ass sword you can win from us?"

"If you're my opponents then it'll be more difficult to lose you know."

"Wha-!?... What the hell are you getting carried away for! Aah!?"

Endou got easily provoked.

As ever the pipsqueak, but in contrast to that Kouma is calm. He's no fun.

"...Suzaki, if you free Yuu and apologize now you will be forgiven."

"Says the fake Hero. The one who's saying sorry and apologizing should be you."

"Have you become a rash lunatic...!?"

Each of them finally took up their arms.

The hostility of 30 people struck me.

The one who couldn't agree to it is only Yuuhi.

"Wh-, why aren't you letting me do this for you!?"

"Because I want to to do it, okay?"

"But Brad said he's leaving it to me!"

“That guy’s request is nothing. You’re not going to disobey my order are you?”

“Ugh...”

Being stabbed by her weak point, Yuuhi said nothing.

But I didn’t overlook it.

That there’s only tiny bit of relief mixed in that expression of hers.

“...You don’t have to fight those guys, okay?”

“Bu- but”

“No buts. I... don’t want you to forget that compassion of yours.”

“Eh...?”

I stroke Yuuhi’s head who is looking blankly.

To make my words easy to convey, even if a little.

“A Yuuhi who fights without mercy ain’t something I wanna see. If you’re always smiling energetically nearby, then that’s fine. Push all the painful things towards me. Whatever it is, it’ll be fine if it’s me.”

“Ah...”

I separate my hand from her head and thrust Kuromaru at Kouma and co.

Attacking your comrades who you have laughed together with can’t possibly be not tough.

You aren’t supposed to be able to do so with a decent mind, to say nothing of killing them.

The ones who can are only people who have become mass murderers.

Only people who have come to be unable to feel anything towards a person’s death.

I don’t want Yuuhi become such a person.

I shall fight in that case.

I, who can fight without killing them, no matter the opponent---

I, who pour my all into not taking away a life---

“But, but even so---

“If you can’t agree with that either, then...”

I’ll present a new option to Yuuhi who still seemed to want to say something.

That’s about what I can do now.

“Play with that one over there for a bit please.”

“Over there...?”

Right behind us was a single figure of a person wearing a black robe.

Spreading serious magic power, Yuuhi immediately noticed her enemy.

“You are Setsu I presume. I have finally found you.”

The black robe who approached us took off their hood and a well-featured face of a woman appeared under it.

It’s a human girl, her stature’s on the high side and her long purple hair dangled until near her waist.

“What brought a beauty like you here? An invitation to play?”

“Of course, in order to kill you who resents Master Touma.”

“Oh really now...”

My satire was answered seriously... Wouldn’t it have been better to make it more

grandiose?

“My name is Luna. There is no particular need to remember it; after all, you will die here either way.”

Luna or something displayed her hands.

This is an odd magic flow, something I didn't expect is coming---

---Oh, before I put myself on guard.

“Let's change locations for a bit”

“gh!?”

Yuuhi approached before Luna's eyes.

The next moment, her flames bursted open.

An explosion attack mixed with wind and fire after high speed movement with wind magic huh? She's become really strong too.

Nevertheless, she obeyed really honestly didn't she... I thought she was going to complain a bit more.

“Who are you...!”

“Yuki-kun's lov---chi- childhood friend!”

“Huh!?”

Luna was pressed by Yuuhi's explosion and separated from this place.

Yuuhi's amazing to release this big explosion, but Luna who was avoiding it at the last moment also has good agility.

As expected of the black robes, ordinary methods won't work on them I guess.

...I dare not touch Yuuhi's statement.

“Now then... How about we start as well?”

Chapter 57

Desire to monopolize

“You... You know who that person was and you’re trying to make Yuu her opponent...!?”

“Ah?”

Kouma looked at me like he’s looking at an unbelievable person.

“You idiot! Miss Luna is a leader of the human army you know!? Fighting such a person, Yuuhi-san can’t possibly win can she!?”

“Humm...”

Is that so. So the black robes were entrusted with their leadership huh.

Of course they would. No matter how strong one is, they won’t be trusted if the others don’t know their identity.

But the fact Elka and the others didn’t tell me anything means... that the state has done something I guess.

“Get out of my way Suzuki! If we don’t stop Yuu now she’ll end up dying!”

“Nah, it should be fine. If it’s the current her then she can win even against that girl.”

“...What are you saying?”

“More importantly, you’re going to worry a little more about yourself won’t you?”

If they don’t become more serious, then instant killing would be too bland.

Well, I am in a hurry though.

Should be the same for Kouma and the others.

“Let’s start right away, you’re in a hurry right?”

“Why you... Despite being a Gloomy Yuki, you’re being conceited! <Magma Ball>!”

While a vein popped up, Endou leaped out and shot a large clump of lava.

Was that the completed form of the magic that was used before? It’s a technique close to a unique magic that uses Endou’s distinctive magic power.

But it’s slow.

Slow enough for me to have enough time to go around the classmate’s back.

“Did it work!?”

“No it didn’t!”

Together with an explosion near the ground, the puddle of water vaporized.

Endou saw that vapor and said something stupid so I told him where I was.

“Wh-! Behind us!?”

“What!?”

Mitsuki realized it first and showed a response, but that too was slow.

If their opponent was someone who had the intent to kill, then half of them would have died this instant.

“Ranged group get back! The close quarter group are the vanguards!”

Jirou’s instructions scattered around.

Doesn’t seem like they’re conceited enough to challenge me one by one.

“Come at me”

“Uoooooooooh!”

A male student whose name I don’t particularly remember came leaping at me with a sword.

Continuing that, the bunch who went towards left and right started their attack from both sides.

Your coordination is fine and all, but what do you think you’re doing by leaping all at once, you guys.

“Take this here!”

I swing once with Kuromaru.

The lightly swung Kuromaru mowed down the leaping guys in one fell swoop.

“Don’t go all at once! Remember the things you acquired in the dungeon exploration!”

Shouted Kouma after seeing the guys groaning on the ground after being mowed down.

Hearing that, the vanguards immediately stopped their movement and each of them started moving separately.

No, he saw it was falling apart and took proper command.

In proof of that, they perfectly shifted their timing and started their attack.

“Take this!”

“Woah there...”

“Sei!”

“Here here”

“Yaah!”

“Try and hit me~”

I dodge, warp and repel the pushed out fist, swung sword and thrown knife.

Although I was surrounded by ten people, nobody could touch me.

If it's like this then I rather prefer monsters.

“Why can't I hit him!?”

“Who knows? Aren't you guys just slow?”

“Why you!”

Even if you get worked up, things that can't hit just can't hit.

Oops, now that we separated, the rearguards are chanting magic.

Shall I make them sleep before I'm attacked?

“Here, <Thunder Floor>”

“Gah”

The electricity that was released from the soles of my feet burned the classmates.

It was fortunate that a pool of water was made thanks to the heavy rain.

Thanks to that the electricity flowed well even with a small amount of magic power.

“Magic! Go!”

“<Wind Dagger>!”

“<Flame Lance>!”

“<Water Cannon>!”

“<Stone Rain>!”

“<Thunder Lance>!”

Together with Jirou’s voice, magic was fired at the same time.

Quite a lot of them, I should go around again and---

“Gh!”

“Think I’ll let you... run...?”

The nameless classmate who shouldn’t be able to move by the electricity grabbed my foot.

What looks is he giving me... persistence and fighting spirit... and what else? Something mysterious was inside this guy.

No, it’s not just him, it’s everyone.

What in the world did they do to them...?

“Wait, it’s not the time for that I guess”

I forcibly swing away the hand that caught my foot and clear away the magic that approached right before me with Kuromaru.

I intended to dodge that but I wasn’t on time for that I guess...

---Speaking of which.

Why do these guys go this far for Yuuhi’s sake?

The fact that Yuuhi clearly has her awareness should’ve been obvious to whoever was looking at her.

And yet they’re fighting with the reason that she’s manipulated by me, but isn’t it strange that not even one person was suspicious of Yuuhi?

That and they’re trusting Endou too much.

(No... that's not it. Everyone is placing too much trust in Yuuhi.)

She's certainly loved by many of them.

I've always been near Yuuhi after I reincarnated, but I've never seen anyone who hated her.

I heard people who we've never met at all were friendly to her.

It was abnormal to be frank, to be loved even by unknown people.

Is there something---about her...?

"Well, whatever. Putting it off for later."

It's a topic where there's no point in thinking about it.

I'd like to check that after we finish this up, but right now let's play with the guys in front of me.

"Outta the way! I'll do it! <Magma Ball>!"

"You got no technique do you."

I brush away Endou's Magma Ball he unleashed the second time.

Seeing his own magic burst and scatter in mid-air and then falling on the ground to create water vapor, Endou stiffened.

"It's a lie... right...?"

"...Everyone, take refuge"

Having seen that, Kouma gave instructions while he came out.

The others who valiantly came out were two: Jirou and Mitsuki.

And incidentally Endou who was at the front and didn't move.

If it were the other people, then they probably won't be able to perform an attack as good as the Magma Ball back then.

If so, then I agree with Kouma who judged that they'll be useless in this fight.

The classmates who looked like they want to say something were reluctant, but maybe they understood their own strength since they stepped back.

"Ah, if you're going back then take these guys with you."

I grab several of my classmates who are collapsed behind me and throw them.

From a sideglance, Jirou caught all of surprised people, killed their momentum and let them on the ground.

All with one hand, huh. Not bad eh.

"Hold it you, even if it was a joke, they're still classmates you know. Couldn't you treat them a little more careful?"

"In that case, then don't gang up on me and torment me with all of you please. I'm just one person you know?"

"My bad, I don't have any sympathy for the guy who put his hand on Yuu."

"Really, well I don't need any of it though."

While we were talking about those things, the people escaped in the direction opposite of me.

They seem to be on guard against me, but I'm not going to chase them really.

Bye bye, peeps whose names I don't know.

"Nevertheless Kouma, letting all of them escape was a good decision. If Endou's Magma Ball doesn't get through, then they can't become opponents if they're not us."

“I wonder if I’ve done something unforgivable to everyone.”

“There’s no helping it! It’s easier to move this way, you know!”

What’s remaining are three of the four life-havers and one dunce, huh... That works.

“It’s pitiful for the guys who were declared as useless isn’t it-”

“I think it’s better than dying.”

“That’s true though.”

Me killing anyone’s not gonna happen... No, there’s a once in a thousand chance; if there’s that many, then they may get engulfed and at least one may get into an accidental death.

The amount of people dropped now, so I won’t have to get troubled with that part.

“---Here we come, Suzaki”

“Sure”

Kouma and Mitsuki’s figure disappeared.

They’re quick... I can see Glain’s style.

I stopped the Excalibur of Kouma who appeared beside me with Kuromaru and then I stop the attack from Mitsuki’s dagger from the other side by grabbing her arm.

They’re fast was what I said, but that’s in a within bounds of common sense kind of meaning.

They’re still sluggish from my perspective.

These two looks surprised, but it appears these weren’t their winning bet.

With the perfect chance where both my hands are occupied, Jirou appeared in front of me.

“Eat this! <Tekken Seisai (Iron fist punishment) >!”

The magic power filled fist hits my stomach.

The foot he stepped with rocked the ground, creating a small crater.

The attack with high firepower from good coordination was pretty good... but.

“You should have gotten Glain to give you a bit more proper training.”

“Wha-... are you kidding me”

I didn't even twitch.

As I expected he didn't seem to think it did no damage, so Jirou reflexively pulled back his fist.

Before they separate, first I fling away Mitsuki I caught and then hit Jirou hard with my free hand.

Mitsuki who I flung away from me scowled at me while she got up and Jirou was lying down on the pool of water, groaning unmoving.

“Ji- Jirou! Suzaki...!”

“Where did you get such strength is it?”

“!?”

It's because you look like you want to ask that.

Even I would be curious about it if our positions are reversed.

“Weell, not gonna tell ya though!”

“Damn!”

I forced back Kouma with Kuromaru.

Originally, Kuromaru is at a level where it would be instantly cut into pieces by a

sacred sword, let alone holding down the sacred sword. But Kouma's sacred sword is still hardly awakened.

It's just a stick that discharges power.

Excalibur, which would continue to shed light, will for the first time acquire its sharpness by condensing the light in its blade.

And thus us Heroes would arrive at a higher place.

If I were to say what I want to say then---it means it's not worth talking about it to the inexperienced Kouma.

“---Why are you supporting the demon army?”

“Ah?”

Kouma asked me as he took distance and readied himself.

“We were supposed to be requested to help the humans and take up arms... And yet, why are you on that side? Why are you trying to take Yuu along with you?”

“...Hmm, that's right.”

The reason is that the human me got along well with those guys, but... I don't think that's all.

Simply said, letting Touma do whatever he likes pisses me off and I have to kill him once more.

And above all I hate the human country.

And if I were to add another one, one reason that's limited to this place---

“The big reason is that I have people important to me among both the demons and the beastmen. If the humans are going to try hurting them, then supporting them is natural right?”

“...”

“Also personally, I can’t stomach the fact you asked Yuuhi out on a date.”

“...You mean... that’s the reason for taking her along with you?”

“Yeah”

Think I’m going to leave Yuuhi alone in a place with a guy who would try to put his hands on her? Is what I’m saying.

Well... I do know Yuuhi refused the invitation from a guy with ulterior motives.

Also that she’s not as weak as she looks.

That’s why I also know that there was never a time when she went out together with a man except with me, just because she was asked out.

Even so... I doubt this guy will stop asking her out, because he loves her.

Even I you know, have that healthy desire to monopolize.

“I like Hanabashira Yuuhi. I love her very, very much. I won’t hand her over to you, I’ll defeat you here. That’s all.

“...Thank you for the easiest to understand reason. In that case I cannot lose either.”

There’s no compromise in this.

That being the case, we can only fight.

I set up my Kuromaru and Kouma readied his incomplete Excalibur.

There’s no signal.

Even so we kicked the ground at the same time.

Our swords then clashed and sparks fell---

Chapter 58

<Sword Defensor>

“Guwa!?”

Kouma was blown away and rolled over on the ground.

Eventually he stopped and daringly threw away the raincoat he wore that probably became troublesome and stood up with his sacred sword thrust on the ground.

“Kuh... Why is there such strength...”

“How does it feel? Being defeated by the guy you’ve been ridiculing with incompetent and gloomy and all that.”

I close the distance in one go and swung down Kuromaru with the feeling of giving an additional attack to a weakened enemy.

Kouma somehow defended it with his sword, but he couldn’t bear the weight and went on his knees.

“Guh...!”

“Must feel frustrating don’t you... Hey, try say it! That it’s frustrating!”

“Don’t you under... estimate me!”

“Woah there”

Kouma parried Kuromaru by tilting his sacred sword and thrusting the sword towards me while still on his knees.

It’s a good attack, but I catch that with my palm.

With the sacred sword unable to go through even my palm, Kouma looked shocked.

“How can that...”

“Too bad eh.”

“Gah---”

I strike the shoulder of Kouma who stopped his movement with the back of Kuromaru’s blade.

I’ve adjusted myself, but it felt like his collarbone broke.

(This guy really is inexperienced...)

I thought, watching Kouma who crumbled down.

Neither I nor Touma would even take damage from this level of attack.

Because there’s one of the abilities of a <Sacred sword> wielder, the <Sword Defensor>. (*聖剣の鎧*, lit. armor of the sacred sword)

This is an ability that by far exceeds <Reinforcement Magic> which reinforces the body by flowing magic power throughout our whole body.

First, weapons won’t penetrate.

One is able to stop killing weapons like swords and bows and the like with their skin.

I don’t quite understand the principles of it myself, but well, please think of it as our skin becoming hard when magic power flows through.

Although it doesn’t perfectly protect you from blows, magic or attacks that can inflict damage to the inside, one can obtain a defence where one won’t object even if you call it invincible.

In proportion to that, the magic power consumption becomes nasty if you invoke it continuously, so I normally don’t use it and invoke it depending on the necessary timing.

For example, Kouma’s thrust just now.

That was me invoking <Sword Defensor> on my palms and receiving the blow.

And on the other hand, Kouma receiving damage could say it's because his isn't complete.

Even if I say my blow was weak, it doesn't serve its purpose if his bones break at that level.

"Guh... haah... haah"

"You're also too slow to heal."

Another ability of a wielder of the <Sacred sword>, that is <Sword Thrill>. (聖剣の加護 ソードスリール: *lit. divine protection of the sacred sword; soodo suriiru*)

This ability is most straightforwardly, an ultra-regeneration of injuries.

The ability lets you instantly recover from all external wounds, damage to your body, restrictions due to magic, or things that bring about bad effects.

What's different from recovery magic is the point where even if, for example, you die, then you can revive instantly.

It's just that it consumes magic power.

I'm not sure about it, but apparently you can die if you drive out an illness without magic power, <Sacred Sword> wielder or not.

A former <Sacred Sword> wielder seems to have died that way, but that's a story I heard through hearsay so I don't know it well.

Well... In the famous RPG that starts with Dragon, the Hero can revive right? I'm saying such system is also in this world.

There are abilities besides those but... well, I don't think it's necessary with this guy as my opponent and he doesn't look like he can use it yet.

"What's wrong? You're already healed right? Get up."

"...gh!"

Holding his shoulder, Kouma stood up.

He readied his sacred sword, but its light is dimmer than before and he's backing away.

He's frightened, clearly.

There's no fighting spirit in his eyes and when I take a step forward he takes a step back.

I guess he doesn't know what he can do.

He never expected his sword not to pierce his opponent.

He never expected his body to get injured.

His body is being controlled by his fears from his first intense pain.

This guy has already become useless.

"Boring"

I swing Kuromaru, aiming for Kouma's head.

In order to rob him of his consciousness, this time it's even weaker than the last one.

Kouma didn't move---but,

"Uoooooh!"

"I won't let you do that to Kouma!"

Jirou and Mitsuki stopped that blow.

In that opening, Endou who was supposed to be on his knees until now moved and carried Kouma back under his arms.

"...Get out of the way."

"I won't! I can't let you beat Kouma here!"

"That's right! He's an important friend of ours!"

"..."

Their eyes are serious... Wow, these guys are annoying.

“Both of you...”

“It’s frustrating, but you’re the strongest among us. There’s also the matter in the future and we can’t just lose you alright?”

“Endou...”

What are they saying, these people.

The villainish part is how I usually act, but being shown such friendship drama in front of my eyes gives me the creeps.

“Get up quickly! We’re gonna knock down that creepy guy!”

“---Yeah!”

Kouma’s sword released a strong light.

That which was more dazzling and brighter than before gradually breathed light in that sword.

And then---the sacred sword <Excalibur>, that had locked up all its power inside its edge, was complete.

“Excalibur... I see, you weren’t in your complete form until now... but if it’s now then!”

“Here we go!”

It really turned into something troublesome...

Being surrounded by friends like a protagonist in a story, Kouma awakened into the real deal.

There’s a great difference between that and his incomplete power until just a while ago and his magic power is incomparable too.

...It's a pure white blade unlike mine, but I'm a little jealous of it.

"I guess it'll be bad if I don't go a little more seriously"

"Kuh!"

"Uwa!?"

Sweeping away the two holding back my sword in front of me, I tried to leap at Kouma and---

"Too slow!"

"Uoh!?"

I reflexively curve my body.

The sword tip grazed before my eyes.

Appearing in front of me in an instant, Kouma swung his sword at a speed that can't be compared with that from a while ago.

"You've gotten pretty fast haven't ya!"

"Thanks to you, my body is light!"

I also go just a little more seriously and devote myself in evasion.

There are as many chances for counter attacks as I like, but with Kuromaru I doubt I'll be able to cause any damage to the current Kouma...

I know that his <Sword Defensor> is fairly complete.

The sharpness of his sword is also several times---

Shall I also draw out my sacred sword?

No... I would end up killing him if I do it untactfully and I also don't know how many would get mixed up and eaten.

“Tch!”

“gh!”

I parry the sword and thrust my fist into Kouma’s abdomen.

A dull sensation transmitted into my hand in spite of having my fist reinforced with magic power.

Kouma opened his eyes wide from being counterattacked and bearing damage albeit extremely small, and flew back in surprise.

The other three rushed towards him.

“Are you alright Kouma!?”

“Yeah... but still, even though I’ve attacked this much, to think not even one attack connected is...”

“What could he be...”

Some composure could be seen in the faces of the four.

Kouma is an equal match to me... is what he must be thinking.

He has the nerve to think,

that he can win,

against me.

“I have some plan... the three of you, please lend me your ears”

They gathered together and began their discussion.

Well, usually I would do a surprise attack, but let’s wait this time, like a common villain.

“---Got it right!? Good, let's go!”

Kouma, Mitsuki and Jirou rushed out.

Kouma is naturally the fastest, but Mitsuki was also fast.

Behind them is Jirou and behind him is Endou.

And among them... I'll shut down Kouma first I guess.

“<Magma Lance>!”

“Wha-... tch!”

The instant I try to swing Kuromaru, a large dark red lance came flying towards me.

It's on the fast side, but not much of a big deal.

When I brush it away with one hand, a large part of it fell on a pool of water and steam rose from it.

(Oh crap... so this was their aim)

“I, you know! I detest you! You gloomy Yuki!”

From the other side of the steam that's rapidly reducing my sight, Endou called out.

Yeah, I know even if you don't tell me, I don't like you either.

“Always making a blank face! And you ain't never going against whatever we tell you to do”

“ ... ”

What, you wanted me to go against you?

“And that attitude as soon as you've come to this world! It's sickening you know!”

I sweep away the magma lances like crazy.

Steam rises each time I do so, my vision is already pure white.

“Huff... huff... The likes of you!”

It’s a stupid bastard... firing continuously and causing himself to have short of breath.

“You think I’ll let the likes of you have Yuuhi-san!?”

“...Is that so!?”

A lance of unthinkable size appeared as it pierced through the steam.

Did he muster the last of his power? I can’t hear that annoying voice of his anymore.

I grab that lance with one hand and crush its tip.

My right hand is a little hot... it pierced my <Sword Defensor> in the end huh.

Well... it was a great shot.

“Now where was I...”

The last lance fell on the ground and steam rose together with the sound of evaporating water.

That time, I hear a swoosh-like cut sound on my right. When I put Kuromaru in that direction, clang! I hear the metallic sound twice.

It must be a knife, guessing from the lightness of the sound, it’s probably Mitsuki’s attack.

I hear sounds of footsteps from the direction the knife flew out.

At the same time, something is shining at the inside the opposite side of the water vapour.

Considering the location, it’s Kouma and Mitsuki... If it’s like that then Jirou is the

finisher just like last time then.

So Kouma pretended to be the one who decides the outcome, but it's surprisingly Jirou... I'd think they would know his attacks won't reach me, but...

When the light and footsteps approached until they're nearby, a knife and fist comes from left and right and---fist?

"Take this!"

I noticed after stopping the knife and fist.

The owner of the knife was, not surprisingly, Mitsuki.

However, what was releasing light wasn't Kouma's sacred sword, but Jirou's only light magic.

Which means the one coming from the front is---

"With this---it's settled then!"

The man who is capable of injuring me... Kouma.

The tip of the sacred sword that protruded, was sucked into my defenceless body--- is what didn't happen.

"...Eh?"

I have grabbed and stopped the edge of Excalibur.

The point of his sword won't even reach me.

Furthermore, Jirou and Mitsuki have collapsed left and right of me.

"You guys really thought you could defeat me with such cheap tactics...? It was obvious, you idiots."

It means that it's obvious they would decide the fight with Kouma.

In the end, Jirou's attack can't get through me after all.

Next, Jirou using light magic was too foolish.

As long as magic power is used, it will get caught by my magic detection no matter how inferior it is.

That's why I didn't worry about being dodged and thrust my fist into Mitsuki and Jirou's abdomen and made them faint.

And then caught Kouma's blade---In order to show off the difference in strength.

"It's kind of over-optimistic trying to win with a power that you awakened in this place, you know that? This place isn't that convenient you know."

Difference in power is difference in power, how much you suddenly become stronger, it's not something that just covers it.

A great difference is created between me and Kouma, in strength, skill and also experience.

He may have awakened his sacred sword in the eleventh hour, but it didn't cover that difference.

"..."

"What's wrong? Cat got your tongue?"

I ask a question towards Kouma who sunk into silence.

I thought he's surprised, but it seems different somehow.

Kouma looks at me---or more accurately behind me and thinly smiled.

"We're counting on you---Endou!"

"Got it!"

"What!?"

What came out behind me---from the steam was Endou who I thought couldn't move anymore back then.

Perhaps he must've pretended to have fainted and went around behind me.

Even so... why hadn't I felt his magic power?

"Go to hell! <Magma Hammer>!"

"Tch!"

Together with the sound of something breaking, a gigantic boiling magma hammer hits me at super point blank range.

Kouma already stored away his sacred sword in another dimension and carried away Mitsuki and Jirou.

I stop the lump of magma with both hands.

It's a lump of outrageous magic power and to makes matters worse, <Sword defensor>'s magic resistance isn't perfect.

My hands is getting a little hot.

"All of our magic powers are put in Endou's magic! Don't think you can stop it!"

So that's how it is. The reason I didn't notice Endou getting closer is because his magic power ran dry.

The sound I heard of something breaking before this lump was released back then... Should probably be the sound of a magic stone being crushed.

I've heard there were magic stones that stores magic.

If that's the case then it could contain everyone's magic power and Endou can fire magic even in a zero magic power state.

It's a good strategy... is probably not the time to say...!

"Gooooooooo!"

“Kuh...”

This isn't good... I'm being crush---

“Huff... huff... serves you right.”

“Are you okay, Endou...”

“Yeah, my magic power's only spent after all... I can get up right away.”

Kouma lent his shoulder to Endou who collapsed and escaped from inside the steam.

He left him at the place Jirou and Mitsuki was resting and once again confirmed the location **he** was in from the outside.

He couldn't see well from the steam, but he was certain he was inside.

Endou felt a definitive response and Kouma too had confirmed where he was about to be crushed by the lump of lava.

“Did he... really die?”

“Heh... he got what he's coming for.”

Kouma thought he shouldn't talk like that to a man who was their classmate, even as a joke, but he himself fought with the intent to kill and noticed it was like a pot calling the kettle black.

It was the man who brainwashed Yuuhi, dying is natural---having such conclusion, Kouma justified his own deeds and was made to agree.

“More importantly you, is it fine not to go to Yuuhi-san? She probably became sane again.”

“...What are you going to do. Endou, even you like---

“It's fine, okay!... I'm fine with it. You're suitable for Yuuhi-san... That's why I'm fine with it already. Go already, once I can move again I'll also go.”

“...Got it.”

Kouma who could still move cleared away the aftertaste of victory and began walking towards the direction Yuuhi had gone.

It was---that moment.

““gh!?””

The two instantly turned pale.

Shoulders were heavy.

By the terrible pressure, Kouma went on his knees and Endou twitched and became unable to move.

“Aah... my bad. I’ve been underestimating you a little, you guys.”

Perhaps to them, it was the voice they least wanted to hear in the world right now.

From inside the steam that was still enveloping, **he** appeared---



Chapter 59

Q&A Session

Heroes are really outrageous beings.

That's because whatever they do, they'll get this strong in no more than about a single month.

When you try and be in their presence, you'll understand the feelings of the nearby people who look at me or Touma.

So out of standard aren't they... like really.

That's what I think when I look down on my uninjured body even though I was swallowed by lava.

Only the clothes on my upper body became useless.

This won't do, I'm almost half-naked.

Even Heroes would get embarrassed all the same though.

Damn it... what shall I do with those two?

The man called Endou Ryuuji is, in any case, an ordinary human being.

Getting ordinary grades in elementary school and middle school, and test results were always average.

An ordinary boy who never earned anything but third place in a foot race during sports day.

His dislike towards himself changed and he took effort and entered high school in a somewhat higher ranking.

That was where he met by chance---the girl called Hanabashira Yuuhi.

She was just like the sun.

The sun floating in the sky who would come in contact with even the crowds of weed like himself with the usual cheerful attitude.

He fell in love at first sight.

He tried starting to approach and talk to her, but what gathered around Yuuhi were flowers, different than the weeds.

Kouma, who was renowned as the coolest boy in his school year, the petite and cute Mitsuki, who was very popular by the boys and Jirou, who brought people together with excitement and his trustworthiness...

What is more, the smart student council president whose glasses suits him, a handsome youth who entered as a junior and was a model, a boy of the same school year with plenty of sexual experience and even boys of other schools harbored love towards her.

Endou gave up halfway... saying the ordinary him can not win against them.

And the finishing blow was the figures of her and Kouma walking on the road that's illuminated by the setting sun.

They were too matching, his heart broke.

He gave up on her and a few days later... he witnessed Yuuhi talking with a single male student, also by coincidence.

Who was there was neither Kouma nor the other flowers---Suzaki Setsu, the "bottommost in social standing" in terms of position. A boy who was like withered weed, the weed among weeds.

Seeing that, Endou felt anger.

The boy who was called gloomy, eerie and even unpleasant, treated the words of the girl who was an existence like the sun to them as he saw fit. Endou noticed the first feelings inside of him... his urge to kill.

From then on he turned Suzaki Setsu into his enemy.

Instigating him with "Gloomy Yuki" and kicking him around as a gofer.

There were also times he struck his stomach or stepped on his head as he was crouching.

And he, who was laughing doing that... currently has his head stepped on by that boy.

“Gah... hah...”

“Come to think of it, I had this done to me a lot right? By you.”

It was one blow.

Just when he thought he appeared from inside the steam, Endou received an impact on his stomach and fell down.

The intense feeling of oppression and intense pain rendered him unable to move and made him crouch.

With him gasping, his face was pressed to the ground and some mud entered his mouth.

“I ain’t bearing any special grudges against you. Whatever was done to me neither hurt nor itched after all.”

Setsu’s stepping power wasn’t high.

However, Endou couldn’t stand up.

“Reason why I’m stepping on you like this is because I got curious about how you felt when you stepped on me. Hey Endou, it surprisingly doesn’t feel bad, this... the looking down part is better than anything else. Did you have that kind of feelings too?”

“Guh... gih...”

Even though Endou was disordered and agonizing in pain, his face went red from anger.

He put in the strength to stand up, but he was stepped on stronger than before and he sunk further in the soil.

“How amazing, you... Despite having neither magic power nor physical strength and your body is hurting. Do you hate me that much?”

Setsu tormented Endou by grinding with his foot.

Even if he was screwed even more into the ground and mud entered his mouth, Endou didn't stop glaring at him.

“I understand you, I hate you too you know. That's why I'm stepping on your head like this. Let's see, what should I do now... break your arm? Cut off your legs? Even if I gouge out your eyes, it'll be fine if I go for one. If it's just that then I can still do it without problems, right me?”

Setsu thrust Kuromaru before Endou's eyes.

This moment, Endou harbored “fear” towards him for the first time.

He's conscious about what he picked a fight with.

This man is a monster, I shouldn't have come in contact with him.

Regret swelled up... he currently thought from the bottom of his heart---that he was too foolish.

“So... where should I start?”

The next moment, Endou's consciousness was spontaneously lost.

“...aw, that sucks”

He fainted just by me pointing a smile towards him for a bit.

I should've done it over for a bit, but let's be satisfied with just making him regret it.

“Uh... ah...”

“So, what are you gonna do?”

I call out to Kouma who had his sacred sword ready and isn't moving.

Even though you could say I was defenseless when I was stepping on Endou, this guy didn't move even a single step.

My impression is that his spirit is already broken.

Like I thought, he's going to get cold feet if their greatest attack was stopped without injuries.

Well, I don't care about this guy's condition, I have something I want to ask of him.

"Well, if you're not coming at me then that's fine, just listen like that. Answer me honestly to the things I'm about to ask you."

"Wh, why should I..."

"If you're not answering then it can't be helped, I'll kill this guy."

To threaten him, I thrust Kuromaru to Endou's neck.

The fact that I won't kill is something Kouma doesn't know.

It should be enough of a threat in that case.

"St-, stop!"

"Then answer them, honestly of course."

"...I understand"

Alright, this is good.

"Okay then, first question, those black robe lots, if I remember rightly you said they were leaders or something right? Tell me all of their names and abilities."

"Why should I..."

"Because it's necessary. Just tell me."

“O, okay.”

Before he talked back with something, I press Kuromaru strongly against Endou, urging on ahead.

If I try to summarize the explanation that came from Kouma’s mouth, there are eight black robes.

Names are Kagerou, Luna, Bildos, Kuroinu, Saiga, Melua, Lume, Gaia.

Each of them has unique magic, but they weren’t revealed or so it seems.

It’s probably, but... the one who uses <Shadow Magic> or something seems to be Kagerou.

I’ve already met Saiga and Kuroinu didn’t I? In front of Shironeko’s house.

Now that I think about it, I couldn’t confirm their unique magic.

Next is Melua huh... if my expectations are right, then she must be that one...

“---Now, the next question, it’s the location of the black robes.”

“I, I don’t know... Even though I say those people are leaders, I haven’t gotten any commands. They have the authorities, but... All of them should be running about freely on the battlefield. Ah, but one is protecting the king of the human continent. Another one... One of them is also marching onto Evil Barrow alone on a horse.”

“On a horse... Evil Barrow? He’ll get done in before he reaches the demon king’s castle, like that.”

“That person appears to have an ability that makes sure he won’t... I don’t know it in details though.”

What is this, he’s useless.

His target should be Desastre, but... how rash, picking a fight with that woman is like going to his death.

Which leaves me---if I knock down the six black robes in this place, then it’ll settle this battlefield.

No, if that guy's also here...

"Next, do you know of a guy who looks like a little girl?"

"Wh, who is that...?"

"Hmm... I'll ask differently. You haven't seen any other black robed guys?"

"I, I'm 100% sure there are only eight leaders! I don't know anyone else, okay!?"

He---ain't lying I guess.

That guy didn't come?

No, he can't possibly not come.

He should appear somewhere... probably when the battle's about to end.

"Well, whatever..."

"Are we done...? Release Endou please"

"Yeah, then I'll give you my last question."

The thing I wanted to ask the most was still left.

Something more important than the information of the enemies I'll be making.

"You, you invited Yuuhi to a date. Is that true?"

"Eh?"

"Answer me."

"Ye, yeah... It's true---gah."

In the middle of Kouma's answer, my fist caught his cheeks.

I ended up hitting him unintentionally... Uhee.

Uwa, he ended up fainting.

“Well, whatever I guess.”

I carry the fainted Endou and Kouma by gripping their nape.

I carry Mitsuki and Jirou while I’m at it and put all of them at the base of a large tree inside the forest.

Leaving them alone while exposed in rain looks bad to me too after all.

I tie them... no I don’t have to tie them up. They can’t do anything either way.

Chapter 60

Earth God Gaia

“Now, what to do.”

The fight with Kouma’s group is over, so I’m thinking about what to do next.

My current objective is to crush the black robed bunches, but I ought to go to Yuuhi for now I guess.

I spent a little too much time in this and that girl should be fine, but I can’t make light of unique magic users.

Shall I just wait and see for now?

“H-!?”

The moment I took a step towards Yuuhi and the other, I perceive a hint of something flying with great force from behind me and leap to the sides.

Upon doing so, the place I had been standing until now was struck by something.

Judging from appearances, it looks human shaped, but... isn’t this the same thing as the raincoats Kouma and the others were wearing?

His hair is black and short and from his good physique, it should be a young man.

...This appearance, he might be a classmate.

Why I don’t have proof of that is because this guy’s face doesn’t have trace of its original shape.

It’s smashed... must be struck many times over.

He’s not breathing like one would expect.

“Hmph... Just when I was going around to kill fools who were escaping from the

battlefield, I come across an interesting guy.”

A voice called out to me when I was checking the corpse.

What is behind me is a young man.

I have never seen his face and I shouldn't have seen that appearance of his either, but only that voice I do know.

“Are you Kagerou?”

“I don't know who you heard that from, but... that's correct, Setsu.”

“Properly wear a black robe please, I got confused for a sec, you---know!”

I kick the ground hurriedly during my words and approach Kagerou.

And then I strike with Kuromaru in a surprise attack sense.

However---

“I'm different from before you though... I'm being underestimated.”

“...ugh, really now.

Kagerou stopped Kuromaru with a black sword.

I thought about settling it with this attack, but it doesn't seem like I can do that so easily. Now that I think about it... I do recall this guy at the wedding ceremony being a clone body.

“Gh! Or rather, are you disguising that black sword or something as Kuromaru!? I'm gonna wreck that thing!”

“Try it if you can! With that swords that's only big!”

“Oraah!”

I took some distance and swing Kuromaru through centrifugal force.

Kagerou proceeded to parry that with the one handed black sword.

I've put quite some power into it, but it splendidly diverted.

Tch... You mean I really can't go with ordinary methods if I go against these guys?

"...You're a man I can't get along with."

"Ah?"

"Why do you bastard, despite having this much strength, care about other people?"

"Huh? You're saying things I don't quite understand."

"I'm asking why you are protecting the weak!"

Kagerou used the momentum of my sword curving and struck back with his sword.

When I lightly kick the ground to avoid it with a backstep, Kagerou shortened the distance, not allowing me to escape.

The swords once again got together, turning into a fierce competition.

"The weak you say... What are you talking about."

"Since a while ago you bastard have been pointing your consciousness behind you. There's something... someone which would be bad if it's found by me, isn't there?"

"...Now let's see here."

Strangely perceptive, this guy.

I'm sure I laid down Kouma and the others behind me.

It's about this guy who's killing the fleeing classmates, he may just kill them while he's at it.

I already squeezed out the information, so they already served their purpose, but...

"Well, if I lose these, then my important girl will be sad. My bad for ya, but you're gonna let me take on ya while protecting them."

Even if I say it like I'm giving a clear explanation, Yuuhi would feel sad if Kouma and the others die.

There's no need for me to purposely make her sad.

Besides, a handicap of this level is like nothing.

"Important girl... so it's for the sake of your comrade."

"Hah! For the sake of comrades, you're making me laugh! I move for my sake. I don't want to see her sad face, that's why I'm protecting them."

In order to not see that, I have to protect the lots behind me.

If that's the case then it's a cheap price, I'll protect them anytime.

An idea that's far away from something like a knight in shining armor, or a Hero.

Those things are more suitable to guys like Kouma who thinks of their companions, are honest and shining.

That's why I don't have to be a Hero or a knight in shining armor.

I don't even want to be a great hero who saves everyone.

It's just, I'll only protect the guys whom I'll be troubled with if I don't have them around.

"And so, I can't get along with you punk. That's why I'll beat you. That fine right? Being self-centered."

"Hmph... Only that part... isn't something I don't understand!"

Our opinions met and then diverged.

His and my sword once again noisily collided within the rain---



Together with the sounds of explosions, two women covered ground. One who continued raising explosions and one who continued dodging them, the two never stopped those movements until they were at a nearly deserted location.

“How obstinate, you... and I even have to deal with that man.”

“I can’t just allow that you know? I have to crush poisonous insects who aim for Yuki-kun.”

“I’m a poisonous insect you say...!?”

The seething anger from being disparaged boosted Luna’s magic power tremendously.

While calmly looking at that scene, Yuuhi turned on the calm flames on her hand.

I am an exterminator! One who kills that damned insect... a messenger of justice, do you understand!? In the name of master Touda, I will crush you as well as that damned insect altogether!”

“...I’ve decided. I will seriously kill you.”

The battle between the woman who released violent anger and the woman who calmly burned the hellfire of wrath had begun.



“This presence...!”

Desastre reflexively rose from the throne. That face of hers was not like the serious look until now; it was covered in joy.

“You’re finally here Setsu. I can see it even from this range.”

“Yes, moreover his former companions and even Roa...”

“Roa?”

“She is an important friend of mine. She is very strong you see.”

“Really... That’s reassuring.”

The face of the two who were inside the demon castle turned very bright.

With just them being here for them, the situation of the war was already in the process of changing.

It was certain that the demon’s side was approaching victory without end.

Perhaps because they believed that... the two were unable to notice someone quickly approaching.

Suddenly, a hole was made on the floor of the throne room.

Fragments of the broken floor scattered about inside the room and dust flew.

“W-!? An enemy attack!?”

“Uhehe... lucky! Quite lucky aren’t I, discovering the two of you altogether!”

What appeared from the hole was a young, green haired girl.

By no means did it mean she was not tall, however that innocent facial expression looked very young.

Furthermore, a tattoo is put under her eye, which brought about even more of a mismatch.

Ominous---that is how she was if one were to express it in a single word. Finally, the black robe put on her body made clear that she was an enemy.

“I think you understand, buut... I’m going to have you let me bind your bodies, so there!”

“Hmph... quite pretentious are you not, despite having a human body. Just try it if you ca---Levia?”

“ .. ”

Levia was looking at the young girl with a surprised look.

And simultaneously she clenched her fist so hard, blood would seem to permeate out of anger.

“Why... are you on that side... Earth god.”

“Wha!?”

“Eeh? It’s my choice which side I take right? Right...? Miss Sea god and miss Sky god.”

“I see... so this one is the earth god.”

Having been called the sky god, Desastre spoke that name with a look like she chewed on a bitter bug.

“That’s right, I’m the earth god Gaia. So, nice to meet you, **my big sisters.**”

Said the young girl who called herself Gaia, while showing a lovely smile.

Chapter 61

Each starting their battle

There were once two gods who made this world.

One is the god of creation.

She created all things from nothing and developed the world.

The other is the god of destruction.

She destroyed things that becomes an obstruction to the development and similarly developed the world.

The world becoming its “Complete form” was a matter of time---however,

The god of creation went mad.

Precisely at that time, she began massacring the “people” born in the world.

When the “people” fell down to half their numbers in the twinkling of an eye, the god of destruction finally began stopping that massacre.

The battle between fellow gods began.

The battle turned violent, but they constantly competed over strength.

There the god of destruction hit upon the idea of borrowing the strength of the “people”.

At the end of the long and violent battle, the god of destruction, borrowing the powers of the “people,” had finally succeeded in sealing the god of creation.

And then, worried for the seal to be lifted, the god of destruction prepared three keys to the seal.

Two of them dwelled inside the “people” and another one dwelled inside a “monster” which has no concept of lifespan.

They were called respectively the “Earth god”, Sky god” and the “Sea god,” and each of them possess great strength in order to not lose the key.

The earth god and sky god are, in accordance to the lifespan of the “people”, taken over, generation upon generation.

The sea god has continuously watched over that.

And like that, they continued to protect the seal to the god of creation.

As long as they weren’t endangered that is.

Until the earth god Gaia turned against the sea god Levia and sky god Desastre---

“Really, you all are... planning on reviving the god of creation aren’t you?”

“That’s right! You know all of the “people” of this world! We’re gonna get everyone killed!”

Contrary to her words, Gaia smiled innocently.

Levia turned lightly cold to that facial expression of hers.

(If I properly found this child and managed to speak with her... no, never mind this talk. It’s a little late for regrets.)

Levia has the duty to worry over the other keys.

For hundreds of years she continued that duty and this time was her first blunder.

It was impossible for her to not feel regret.

Even so, Levia renewed herself.

It is because the **younger sister** beside her was looking strongly---

“...we can not afford to commit a blunder for our generation, now can we.”

Desastre took a step forward.

Levia also tried to match up with her, but Desastre held her back.

“I shall go from here.”

“Hey wait! You don’t have to do this on your own! Not to mention you are the king, don’t you know that!?”

“I will not be bested”

“That’s not what I... hnng! You know what, fine. Just do whatever you like!”

Levia looked at Desastre’s face warped in ferocity and snapped.

She can’t be stopped at this point, and going as far as exterminating her enemy is---

“Fufu... be relieved. There is not in a million chance of a defeat for I, the demon king”



Desastre's hair changed from the lovely red to a beautiful golden color.

Matching with the rise of her magic power inside her, her body began sending out crackling electricity.



"humph... are you maybe underestimating me? The one who ends up dying is yourself though, poor you!"

"Says the likes of a human. The likes of you don't have any such privileges to put up a mask in front of I.

"<Flame art – Cannon>"

"Gyaaah!?"

The flame bullet let loose by the black haired woman, Kuroinu, shot down the demon soldiers.

Upon taking a glance at that, the girl flipped her robe and directed herself to the battlefield.

Incidentally, unlike the time at the beastmen continent, she had the shape of a human.

It was the same with Melua, but all the people in black robes were basically, with the exception of Shironeko, human beings.

Running parallel besides such woman was a single man---

"Saiga, what has happened with your post?"

"I caught up with ya. There were only a few soldiers so it was done instantly."

The man who mowed down the oncoming soldiers with his spear, Saiga so answered.

"Even so, it won't do to be apart from your post would it?"

"Well it's fine ain't it!? You're happy to see me right?"

“That is... well, I suppose that is true.”

“Eh!?”

Saiga reflexively leaked out his voice.

What he said as a jest ended up being affirmed and now he was quite shaken.

“If you are here then I can leave my back to you after all, Billos or Luna would be even better, but... It would help having even you on this occasion.”

“...What, so that’s what you meant.”

“? What about it?”

“Never mind!”

He faced away and swung his spear to vent his anger.

Saiga was also a man. The woman he likes was here.

What the woman said raised him and then pulled him down.

“*sigh* ... Ah, right you know, once we defeat the demon king, let’s go have some meal together.”

“Excuse me?... I don’t think there will be any place to do so once that revives.”

“Before its revival I mean! We should have at least some time don’t ya think?”

“Well... if you’re fine during that time.”

“Alright!”

Saiga this time wielded his spear gleefully.

Each fallen demon soldiers were pitiful.

Seeing such Saiga, Kuroinu anxiously let out a sigh.

(That's why I feel anxious with him... particularly the part where his emotion shakes easily)

"Keep coming, ya demon insects!"

Spreading his voice, Saiga instigated the demons.

A lone demon soldier who felt anger towards that did a suicide attack and was thoroughly sent flying.

The soldier who was about to be thrown to a tree like that was caught by someone.

Saiga and Kuroinu knew of these people. The soldier who was caught peered into the face of the **young girl** who caught him.

"You... all are...?"

"...I'm letting you down desu."

The young girl let down the soldier and ordered him off to the back.

"Aren't we lucky, right big sister."

"I'm glad desu. To meet you first."

What was there were two girls: a black and white one.

They transferred together with Setsu, the sisters who has won fame on the beastmen continent---

"Shironeko... Mineko...!"

"Good afternoon desu. Kuroinu, Saiga."

Towards the cat sisters in front of them, Kuroinu showed a look of hatred and Saiga a forced smile.

Excitement ran through the soldiers who have heard their names.

The unluckiest sisters who had put a wound on the beast king.

There were scant people who did not know them, even among the demons.

“The cats who plastered mud on our honored liege... meeting you here is convenient! I will erase you, skin and all!”

“Shut the hell up desu, fake dog woman. Hey Mineko, say something desu.”

“Eeh... Why are you bringing it to me...

Mineko, who never thought she had a right to speak was bewildered.

However, she seemed to have something she wanted to say, so she immediately put on a serious expression.

“Well... Even I have saved up some pent-up anger after being thoroughly used, so... don’t expect that you can just simply die.”

“You damned prattling cats!”

“Here I go desu”

“Good grief... you women are scary!”

“Stop him! Whatever it takes!”

“You think we can lose!?”

The soldiers swarmed a single well built man. Although that man was wearing a black robe and was a skinhead---

---he had lipstick on him for some reason.

“Oh my... it was a good attack, you all... **buut**, it’s a little lacking, isn’t it!?”

“Wha, what is!?”

Swords struck him and spears hit him.

But his body was neither cut nor pierced.

“Moore... Bring more things that lets me feel!

“Gya---”

The man took a single swing of his fist... that alone bid the lower body of the soldiers goodbye to their upper body.

Seeing that, the other soldiers stumbled a step or two from that bizarre spectacle.

“Come at me more! Like you’re letting I, Billdos tremble from the heart of my body! Your biggest **attack**, give it to mee!”

Towards Billdos showed a look of ecstasy, the soldiers completely lost their fighting spirit.

Their instinct was telling them not to come close to this.

“What’s wroong!? Here! Here!”

“Kuh... temporary withdraw---”

“---aaaaAaAAAAAAH! I’m gonna die!”

“Eh?”

Right between the soldiers and Billdos, someone fell down.

They seem to have splendidly landed on their feet, but they painfully stroke their feet.

“Owow... I, I didn’t die! It was a close call! I was in danger!”

“Yo-, you are...”

“Hm? Aah, I’m glad. I arrived at the battlefield for now.”

Said the blonde young lady as she felt relieved seeing the nearby demon soldiers.

Ro- Roa Gold... daughter of the beast king..."

She was someone who originally wasn't supposed to be here.

The soldiers were naturally surprised, but at the same time felt relief.

The mood in this place had already become hers.

Hmm~ You're the beastmen princess aren't you. I don't know why you are here, but what bad luck~ If you were the beast king then I would've wanted to fight, but... I'm not interested in women."

Billdos looked surprised in the beginning, but lost interest the moment he understood it was Roa.

"But I am gentle, soo... if you scurry back home to the beastmen continent right away then I won't do anything. Now, women are an eyesore! Go immediately!"

"Ah? Who are you? How gross."

"...I take it back, I'll kill you."

A vein rose on Billdos' face.

And then he approached Roa while cracking his knuckles.

"What, you're an enemy? That'll be just right! Just when I wanted to act violently with all my strength!"

Roa also prepared her hands.

Again on a battlefield different from everyone, each of them were about to start their battles---



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